

anterior margin are present and extend into the separation almost to the mesothorax.

On each half of the tergum near the cephalomesal angles, there is a short and rather deep punctured depression. These are represented in the illustration by the dotted lines. Slightly caudad of the right depression is the small, smooth, impunctate area, representing the short impunctate median line found in the normal beetle. No trace of it is found on the left side.

The writer can make no explanation of this division of the prothorax, but wishes to call attention to the fact that an examination of a normal specimen of the species reveals on the ental surface of the protergum an arrangement of the points of origin of the large, conical shaped, dorsoventral muscles which, in a measure, correspond, on their mesal points of origin, to the general outline of the mesal margins of the divided protergum. Can muscular stress have played an important rôle in causing this division? A second question naturally follows the first. What is the significance of the median longitudinal impunctate line so common in many insects? May it not represent the fusion of sutures in some ancestral form and may not the case in hand be a reversion to type?

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## A NEW LIXUS FROM NEW JERSEY.

BY H. C. FALL, Tyngsboro, Mass. ⊗

### *Lixus bischoffi* n. sp.

Form elongate, parallel, but rather stout; black, lustre dull, surface thinly clothed, as in *concausus*, with very short appressed ashy white squamiform hairs, which are feebly and finely mottled on the elytra, and become abruptly denser at the sides of the prothorax. Antennæ (♀?) inserted slightly behind the apical two-fifths of the beak, 2d funicular joint slightly longer and just perceptibly narrower than the first, equal in length to the next two; club rather stout, equal in length to the preceding four joints, and scarcely longer than half the funicle. Beak as long as the prothorax, cylindrical, moderately arcuate, finely feebly punctate apically,

but with numerous intermixed punctures basally; median line obsoletely subcarinate between the interocular and inter-antennal foveæ. Prothorax slightly wider than long, sides nearly parallel in basal half, thence obliquely narrowed and feebly constricted; dorsum broadly impressed basally, the impression bounded in front by a feeble transverse tumidity a little in advance of the middle; surface finely obscurely punctate with numerous scattered coarser punctures. Elytra conspicuously wider than the prothorax; humeri short, oblique; sides parallel to about apical third thence gradually arcuately narrowed to apex, the sutural notch very small. Body beneath and legs substantially as in *concausus*. Length (exclusive of beak) 13 mm.; width 4.3 mm.

Described from a single example—probably a female—kindly given me by Mr. Edwin A. Bischoff. The type is one of a series of five specimens taken at Murray Hill near Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, by Mr. Bischoff who writes me that they were beaten from a large flowering thistle early in September.

This fine species is rather closely similar in size and general appearance to *concausus*, but differs most notably in the disparity in width of the prothorax and elytra, and in its relatively short and stout antennal club, which in *concausus* is much narrower and very distinctly longer than half the funicle. There are also several minor differences such as the more parallel sides of the prothorax, relatively shorter 2d funicular joint, stronger more oblong elytral punctures, and smaller apical sutural notch.

I am placing with the type a specimen taken by myself at Farmington, New Hampshire, in my early collecting days, and long held as *concausus* in accordance with the identification then made for me. It agrees well in essential features with the type of *bischoffi* and is probably identical. It is a little smaller and with shorter beak and probably a male. Of the four remaining examples taken by Mr. Bischoff three remain in his collection, and one is in the collection of Mr. C. W. Leng.